

CUS417/35.61
BOOKS, 1913-5.

There was published from the Bible League Office in 1913 a volume entitled "The Bible and the Origin of Life" by the Rev. A. C. Dixon and Mr. W. H. Seagram. A review of this appeared in the Times of June ~~16~~? 1913, which led to the following note written

Saturday

14th

Jean Astruc.

the same evening, and it appeared in the Times of Monday (? June 16)

To the Editor of the Times.

~~Oxford,~~
~~June 16, 1913.~~

Sir,

In his address on The Bible and the Origin of Life reported in the Times of to-day, the Rev. A. C. Dixon quotes from Dr. Henry Green to the effect that Jean Astruc the father of modern Biblical criticism, was a man "of considerable learning but of profligate life". For the latter part of this statement there is, I believe, no justification. Of marked distinction in his generation Astruc is still honourably remembered in his profession by two historical works of great merit; and from the accounts at my disposal he appears to have had an aggressive type of goodness in a University professor. Issued anonymously and with much modesty and good feeling the significance of the famous Conjectures sur les Mémoires Originaux etc. is, as Baentsch says, in a recent note, assured for all time; and his book has made the year 1753 "a milestone in the history of the science of the Old Testament".

Yours &c.

WILLIAM OSLER.

Oxford,
June 14th (1913).

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At the same time he must have written immediately to others on the subject as the following replies are preserved:-

From Professor Sir Alexander Simpson. to W.O.
52, Queen Street,
Edinburgh.

June 21, 1913.

Dear Sir William,

Your letter to Rev. Dr. Dixon about Jean Astruc reached him just as he was setting out for America. He asked his Assistant Minister to forward me the letter as he had sent me quite recently a copy of the book from which he quoted the disparaging reference to Astruc.

Could not find this in "Times" J.A.S.

BOOKS 1913-2